

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: ARC

DEST Question No: 507_07

Senator Wong provided in writing

Question:

ARC - Post-doctoral and PhDs in business

1. What opportunities does the ARC offer for PhDs and Post-doctoral students to be placed for some time in industry? Is it the case that the Linkage – Projects grants fund placement of researchers into industry to the value of up to \$100,000? What other opportunities exist?
2. How often are these opportunities taken up? Any figures on industry placements funded by the ARC? Are they under-utilised?
3. What are some examples of successful placements?
4. Why does the ARC believe that the take up rate is poor (or good)? What can be done to encourage better industry take up of postgraduate students and researchers?
5. What is the feedback from those who do take up an industry placement – i.e. what do the students/researchers, universities and industry think about the program?
6. Any evaluation done that we could get a copy of?

Answer:

The ARC has provided the following response.

1. Under the ARC *Linkage Projects* scheme, the ARC makes funding available to support Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry), Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (Industry) and Linkage Industry Fellowships. The latter offers funding of up to \$100,000 for periods of between three and twelve months.

ARC funding may be awarded to administering organisations in order to meet the costs of employing personnel on research projects, and such personnel may undertake placement with industry partners. Industry partner financial contributions to ARC-funded projects can also be used to meet such costs.

2. Industry-linked awards and fellowships under the *Linkage Projects* scheme, for the years 2002 to 2006, have been published in the ARC's submission to the Productivity Commission study on Public Support for Science and Innovation in Australia. This submission is available at http://www.arc.gov.au/arc_home/default.htm.

3. Summary information about research proposals approved for funding under the *Linkage Projects* scheme is available at http://www.arc.gov.au/funded_grants/selection_linkage_projects.htm.
4. As above, details of industry-linked awards and fellowships under the *Linkage Projects* scheme are available on the ARC website at http://www.arc.gov.au/arc_home/default.htm. The demand and take-up for Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (Industry) for the years 2002 to 2006 is not weak, as indicated in the published data. The filling of Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) is reflective of sectoral market forces, such as the demand for skills in the mining sector.
5. The feedback on the *Linkage Projects* scheme has been positive as evidenced by the article in the September 2006 edition of *Fast Thinking*, and positive comments in research final reports for *Linkage Projects*.
6. The report of the most recent large-scale independent review of ARC industry-linked funding schemes is available at http://www.dest.gov.au/archive/highered/respubs/uni_partner/execsum.htm.